

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-57. (Canceled)

58. (New) A method for alerting a remote user to an emergency situation via a mobile unit installed in a vehicle, comprising:

determining a geographic location of the mobile unit;

determining an identity of the vehicle based on a unique identification stored in the mobile unit;

determining a priority level associated with the emergency situation;

assembling a header of a communication, the header including the geographic location of the mobile unit, the identity of the vehicle and the priority level, the header capable of being processed upon receipt by a second mobile unit to alert the remote user of the second mobile unit of the emergency situation based on the geographic location of the mobile unit, the identity of the vehicle and the priority level; and

transmitting the communication to the second mobile unit.

59. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the mobile unit includes a global positioning system receiver and the step of determining includes using the global positioning system receiver to automatically determine the geographic location of the mobile unit.

60. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the priority level is associated with an emergency situation selected from the group consisting of: an emergency vehicle, an accident scene, road conditions, traffic signal, weather conditions, traffic conditions and detour instructions.

61. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication includes a payload, the payload including data relating to the emergency situation.

62. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the unique identification includes data selected from the group consisting of: a vehicle license number, a vehicle license number and state identifier, an identifier of a user of the vehicle, vehicle registration information, insurance information and a driver's license number of a user of the vehicle.

63. (New) A method for alerting a user to an emergency situation via a mobile unit installed in a vehicle, comprising:

receiving a communication from a broadcasting mobile unit;

processing a header of the communication to determine a geographic location of the broadcasting mobile unit, an identification of a vehicle associated with the broadcasting mobile unit and a priority level of the emergency situation;

determining a geographic location of the mobile unit;

alerting the user of the emergency situation based on the geographic location of the mobile unit, the geographic location of the broadcasting mobile unit, the identification of the vehicle associated with the broadcasting mobile unit and the priority level.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the mobile unit includes a global positioning system receiver and the step of determining includes using the global positioning system receiver to automatically determine the geographic location of the mobile unit.

65. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the mobile unit is in communication with a visual indicator within the vehicle and the step of alerting further includes communicating with the visual indicator within the vehicle to alert the user.

66. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the mobile unit is in communication with an audio indicator within the vehicle and the step of alerting further includes communicating with the audio indicator within the vehicle to alert the user.

67. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the step of alerting further includes transmitting a signal through an electro-mechanical interface to control at least one electro-mechanical system of the vehicle in response to the emergency situation.

68. (New) A method for selectively distributing information among a plurality of mobile units, comprising:

receiving a geographic location for each mobile unit;

obtaining a unique identification associated with each mobile unit;

determining a subset of the plurality of mobile units based on the geographic location of each mobile unit;

assembling a header of a communication associated with the subset of the plurality of mobile units, the header including the unique identification associated with each of the mobile units of the subset, the header capable of being processed upon receipt by each mobile unit of the subset to alert a remote user of the respective mobile unit to the communication; and

transmitting the communication.

69. (New) The method of claim 68 further including:

determining at least one of a current speed and current direction for each mobile unit; and

the step of determining a subset of the plurality of mobile units is further based on at least one of the current speed and current direction of each mobile unit.

70. (New) The method of claim 68 further including comparing the unique identification associated with each mobile unit to a contact log, and wherein the step of determining a subset of the plurality of mobile units is further based on the step of comparing.

71. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein the communication includes advertising information.

72. (New) A method for providing an advisory communication to a remote user via a mobile unit installed in a vehicle, comprising:

determining a unique identification associated with a transmitting unit;

assembling a header of a communication, the header including the unique identification of the transmitting unit, the header capable of being processed upon receipt by the mobile unit to alert the remote user of the mobile unit to the advisory communication;

assembling a payload of the communication, the payload including information relating to the advisory communication; and
transmitting the communication to the mobile unit.

73. (New) The method of claim 72 wherein the advisory communication is a situation selected from the group consisting of: an emergency vehicle, an accident scene, road conditions, traffic signal, weather conditions, traffic conditions and detour instructions.

74. (New) The method of claim 72 wherein the payload includes advertising information.

75. (New) A mobile unit installed in a vehicle for alerting a remote user to an emergency situation, comprising:

means for determining a geographic location of the mobile unit;
means for determining an identity of the vehicle based on a unique identification stored in the mobile unit;
means for determining a priority level associated with the emergency situation;
means for assembling a header of a communication, the header including the geographic location of the mobile unit, the identity of the vehicle and the priority level, the header capable of being processed upon receipt by a second mobile unit to alert the remote user of the second mobile unit of the emergency situation based on the geographic location of the mobile unit, the identity of the vehicle and the priority level; and
means for transmitting the communication to the second mobile unit.

76. (New) The mobile unit of claim 75 wherein the mobile unit includes a global positioning system receiver and the means for determining uses the global positioning system receiver to automatically determine the geographic location of the mobile unit.

77. (New) The mobile unit of claim 75 wherein the priority level is associated with a situation selected from the group consisting of: an emergency vehicle, an accident scene, road conditions, traffic signal, weather conditions, traffic conditions and detour instructions.

78. (New) The mobile unit of claim 75 wherein the communication includes a payload, the payload including data relating to the emergency situation.

79. (New) The mobile unit of claim 75 wherein the unique identification includes data selected from the group consisting of: a vehicle license number, a vehicle license number and state identifier, an identifier of a user of the vehicle, vehicle registration information, insurance information and a driver's license number of a user of the vehicle.

80. (New) A mobile unit for alerting a user to an emergency situation via a mobile unit installed in a vehicle, comprising:

means for receiving a communication from a broadcasting mobile unit;

means for processing a header of the communication to determine a geographic location of the broadcasting mobile unit, an identification of a vehicle associated with the broadcasting mobile unit and a priority level of the emergency situation;

means for determining a geographic location of the mobile unit;

means for alerting the user of the emergency situation based on the geographic location of the mobile unit, the geographic location of the broadcasting mobile unit, the identification of the vehicle associated with the broadcasting mobile unit and the priority level.

81. (New) The mobile unit of claim 80 wherein the mobile unit includes a global positioning system receiver and the means for determining uses the global positioning system receiver to automatically determine the geographic location of the mobile unit.

82. (New) The mobile unit of claim 80 wherein the mobile unit is in communication with a visual indicator within the vehicle and the means for alerting communicates with the visual indicator within the vehicle to alert the user.

83. (New) The mobile unit of claim 80 wherein the mobile unit is in communication with an audio indicator within the vehicle and the means for alerting communicates with the audio indicator within the vehicle to alert the user.

84. (New) The mobile unit of claim 80 wherein the means for alerting transmits a signal through an electro-mechanical interface to control at least one electro-mechanical system of the vehicle in response to the emergency situation.

85. (New) A system for selectively distributing information among a plurality of mobile units, comprising:

means for receiving a geographic location for each mobile unit;

means for obtaining a unique identification associated with each mobile unit;

means for determining a subset of the plurality of mobile units based on the geographic location of each mobile unit;

means for assembling a header of a communication associated with each mobile unit of the subset, each header including the unique identification associated with the respective mobile unit, each header capable of being processed upon receipt by the respective mobile unit to alert a remote user of the respective mobile unit to the communication; and

means for transmitting each communication to the respective mobile unit.

86. (New) The system of claim 85 further including:

means for determining at least one of a current speed and current direction for each mobile unit; and

the means for determining a subset of the plurality of mobile units is further operative to determine the subset based on at least one of the current speed and current direction of each mobile unit.

87. (New) The system of claim 85 further including means for comparing the unique identification associated with each mobile unit to a contact log, and wherein the means for determining a subset of the plurality of mobile units is further operative to determine the subset based on a comparison of the unique identification associated with each mobile unit to the contact log.

88. (New) The system of claim 85 wherein the communication includes advertising information.

89. (New) A system for providing an advisory communication to a remote user via a mobile unit installed in a vehicle, comprising:

means for determining a unique identification associated with a transmitting unit;

means for assembling a header of a communication, the header including the unique identification of the transmitting unit, the header capable of being processed upon receipt by the mobile unit to alert the remote user of the mobile unit to the advisory communication;

means for assembling a payload of the communication, the payload including information relating to the advisory communication; and

means for transmitting the communication to the mobile unit.

90. (New) The system of claim 89 wherein the advisory communication is a situation selected from the group consisting of: an emergency vehicle, an accident scene, road conditions, traffic signal, traffic conditions, weather conditions and detour instructions.

91. (New) The system of claim 89 wherein the payload includes advertising information.

92. (New) The system of claim 89 wherein the transmitting unit is a mobile unit installed in a vehicle.

93. (New) The system of claim 89 wherein the transmitting unit is a base unit.